



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: May 21, 2006
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Hot Dry Days Cause Stress on Crops

Field Crops

The weather was unusually hot most of the week. Farmers with irrigation were rushing to get it operating. Some rainfall over the weekend helped, but the early heat caused stress on crops that may be irreversible. The stress was especially felt on winter wheat planted to shallow ground. High winds damaged winter wheat in Garfield County and poplars in Walla Walla County. Overall winter wheat and spring wheat conditions decreased. Potato and corn growers continued planting fields. Some hay producers harvested their first cutting.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% poor, 12% fair, 86% good, and 1% excellent. Pastures were in good condition and cattle needed little hay supplement as a result.

Fruit and Vegetables

Greenhouse tomatoes were doing well due to the warm temperatures. Sweet corn planting was underway. Hot temperatures caused vegetable growers to irrigate across the state.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.2
Last Week	6.8

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	5	19	74	2
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	16	78	5
Subsoil	4	20	75	1
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	4	25	69	2
Irrigation Water	0	6	89	5
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	1	7	92	0
Hay & Roughage	5	13	77	5

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	99	96	100	99
Spring Wheat Emerged	79	67	95	94
Winter Wheat Headed	23	16	34	20
Barley Planted	97	90	99	99
Barley Emerged	72	55	84	92
Potatoes Planted	97	93	99	100
Potatoes Emerged	75	60	67	71
Corn Planted	87	80	79	85
Corn Emerged	55	45	46	38
Dry Edible Beans Planted	81	79	63	53
Proc. Green Peas Planted	99	98	100	94
Dry Peas Planted	99	90	99	97
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	25	15	19	23

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	9	25	53	12
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	5	89	6
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	9	42	47	2
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	21	68	11
Barley Dryland	0	11	34	53	2
Barley Irrigated	0	0	28	70	2
Potatoes	0	0	53	44	3
Corn	0	23	36	41	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	55	45	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clark: A nice weekend for gardening and farming, but looks like a wet week ahead.

Grays Harbor: Although ideal for planting sweet corn and silage for silage, an entire week with no rain resulted in less than ideal soil moisture conditions for seed germination. There were some reports of crusted soils in recently cultivated fields. Growers were responding to the unseasonably dry conditions by placing irrigation systems in operation. Christmas tree growers continued spraying both insecticides and fungicides on Douglas and Grand fir. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid growth due to the warm temperatures. Home gardeners continued planting warm season vegetable crops. Livestock producers harvested the first cutting of hay under ideal conditions resulting in premium quality.

Grays/Lewis/Pacific: One of the warmest and driest Mays on record had farmer's busy planting and haying. Hay yields looked like they will be down from last year due to the early cool weather. Dry conditions could limit future production in the non-irrigated fields.

Kitsap: Record temperatures have resulted in early irrigation schedules. Vegetable production was on or slightly ahead of schedule.

Mason: Summer weather was received during the week with high temperatures and low moisture. It felt like the end of July instead of mid-May in the middle of the week. Soils have dried out considerably, and the pastures were hard and dry. Cattle were rotated onto summer pastures. Producers hoped the rain predicted this week will be enough to stimulate regrowth of grazed areas. Mid-Sunday it began to rain lightly and has accumulated 0.1 of an inch. Producers irrigated furiously all week hoping to keep garden plantings and nursery plants hydrated.

Pacific: First of the season hay operations were completed with warm dry weather conditions. Cranberry growers were still evaluating bog conditions, assessing earlier winter

damage to vines, and the upcoming bloom period. Some irrigation of planted fields was necessary due to dry soil conditions. Shellfish growers continued planting operations for oyster seed. Harvest operations continued for both processed shucked oysters and half shell products.

Pierce/King: Unseasonably warm and dry weather required early use of irrigation for some growers. Rains and cool weather will be moving into the county shortly.

Pierce/S. King: Crop conditions remained good. Producers were in the midst of planting corn. Pastures were looking good. There were no reports of any crop damage due to a weather related event or unusual situations.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: The weather was beautiful for the week with sunny and warm temperatures. The planting of crops was on schedule. No crop damage has been reported.

Snohomish/King: The weather was nice most days, and showers later in the week helped the crops. Corn planting and haylage harvest continued. Pastures were generally in excellent shape. Manure spreading was underway. Blueberry and strawberry bloom continued. Apple blossom was mostly over. Raspberries were in bloom.

Thurston: Another week with no rain resulted in drier than normal field conditions. Unseasonably warm temperatures further exacerbated the dry conditions. Vegetable growers and turf grass growers rushed to get irrigation systems set up and in operation. Forage growth was beginning to slow down due to the dry conditions. Livestock producers were able to make a very high quality first cutting of hay. Christmas tree growers continued applying fungicides and insecticides to both Douglas and Grand fir plantations. Truck gardeners reported brisk sales of early season vegetables at the Olympia Farmer's Market. Retail garden stores and nurseries reported brisk sales of bedding and vegetable transplants.

Thurston (2nd Report): It rained last night and we needed it.

Central

Douglas/Chelan: Record breaking high temperatures were received. Rain was received over several days. Some rivers in Chelan County were under flood watch. Precipitation was timely to help the dryland winter wheat crop. Recently seeded spring wheat will probably not emerge due to the rain. Rain will help green up late spring/early summer pastures.

Franklin: Severe wind storm with highs in the 60-70 mph occurred during the week. Heavy rain occurred during the same storm.

Franklin (2nd Report): The week saw many temperature extremes. The week started out with temperatures exceeding 95 degrees Monday through Wednesday and reached 100 degrees on Tuesday. Thursday cooled off significantly with a severe wind and dust storm coming through the county in the early evening. Windrowed hay was blown out of the field from the storm. Friday was again cooler by 20+ degrees from Monday through Wednesday and another thunderstorm ripped through the south end of the county. Winds as high as 70 mph were reported with lightning and a torrential downpour. The National Weather Service initially reported possible tornado activity but nothing was sighted. Additional rains followed over the weekend. The heaviest crop damage occurred to some 2000 acres at the northwest end of the county where a very large portion of Basin Hill slid over Road-170 (major county north-south arterial) onto some 38 acres of cropland. Grass seed, alfalfa hay and other crops were stressed by the extremely high temperatures as they were cut off from irrigation completely as the feeder canal

was buried. The slide area, which occurred Tuesday night, was still unstable and under investigation. Irrigation and traffic were both re-routed, though the volume of water via the temporary methods created for irrigation will be short of crop needs and will impact yields heavily because of the high temperatures when the water was cut off. It is anticipated that many crops were stressed by the early hot temperatures. There were some reports that potato crops suffered with low tuber development from a frost which occurred a week and a half ago and also the excessive heat of last week. Hopefully, the extremes of the week will have minimal effect on crops overall since it is still early in the growing season.

Grant: Rains over the weekend improved moisture conditions but caught a few hay growers with first cutting alfalfa down. Sweet corn planting was beginning. Potato planting has pretty much ended.

Kittitas: Lots of rain was received last week. Corn planting was in full swing.

Klickitat: Rain and thunderstorms were received for three days last week, but soil moisture had not greatly improved. A few producers had large amounts of hay down.

Yakima: Average temperatures ranged from normal to six degrees above normal with 0.27 of an inch of precipitation. Producers reported that the rain may cause some quality problems for the current cutting of hay.

Eastern

Adams: Weekend rains ranged from 0.25 inches up to an inch, which benefited dryland grain conditions greatly. The rain will also extend pastures which had started to show stress from the heat earlier in the week. Canola and mustards were in bloom throughout the county.

Adams (2nd Report): Precipitation at the end of the week helped minimize record high temperatures.

Asotin/Garfield: Near record high temperatures of 20-30 degrees above normal were recorded this week. The extreme heat hurt crops and rangeland. Spring crops were mostly in the tilling stage, and winter wheat was in the critical jointing stage. Both were vulnerable to the excessive heat. Yield reductions will be seen as a result. Rangeland was also adversely affected as the forage on shallow south-facing slopes dried up.

Ferry: The weather was hot last week but turned cool with heavy intermittent rains throughout the weekend.

Garfield: A heat wave in the high 90's with strong winds damaged winter wheat crops. Some of the winter wheat was past recovery. Thunder showers won't help and lightning will be more dangerous as drying occurs. A "million dollar rain" is needed. Most range cattle have moved out of the county to mountain pastures. The drought continues yet another year barring June rains.

Lincoln: Above average to record temperatures continued to stress the wheat crops. Rains on Saturday were helpful, but the damage to the winter wheat on the shallow ground will be irreversible.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Precipitation at the end of the week helped minimize record high temperatures.

Lincoln (3rd Report): Rain bringing cooler weather at the end of the week was a welcomed event to offset unseasonably hot weather earlier in the week.

Pend Oreille: The temperatures were 86 degrees for the high and 32 degrees for the low with 0.9 inches of precipitation. Pastureland was green and growing fast, at 4 inches high. Pastureland with livestock was maintaining itself with good growth. Little hay supplement was needed. Livestock was fattening up on new growth. Fields were being fertilized and some planted with grains. Several old hay fields have been turned under with new seed being planted.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of record breaking temperatures took their toll on crops. "Too hot, too fast" was

the word on the street, and some crops were showing signs of major stress. Friday afternoon the northern end of Spokane County and most of Pend Oreille County got a thunderstorm that provided some heavy rainfall in a short period of time. Saturday a gentle rainstorm fell over the remaining parts of the county. The airport reported 0.5 inches of rain which was very much needed. Weather reports looked like more to come. Hopefully crops can start growing with a more normal temperature and weather pattern. Most producers completed seeding. A few acres were left to seed with some wet spots being worked up after being left to dry.

Stevens: Warmer weather with temperatures in the 90's caused tremendous gains in crop development during the past week. Rains at the end of the week provided new moisture for future growth. Crops were looking good at the week's end.

Walla Walla: The weather was unseasonably hot throughout the week. Friday evening thunderstorms, high winds and heavy rains were received. There were reports of rain in areas with 1.0 inches within minutes. Other areas received an average of 1.0 inches over about an 8-10 hour period. Heavy winds snapped 15-20 foot poplars near Ice Harbor Dam turnoff. Trees were down throughout the area. There were no known reports of crop damage. Weather throughout the weekend remained cool with scattered showers.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Heavy rains with thunderstorms caused some field erosion for grass. Hot weather early in the week brought on lots of growth. Cheat grass pastures started to brown up in the drier parts of the county.

Whitman: With the early spring rains, the fertilizer leached through the profile. The crops have been trying to chase the fertilizer and are coming out short in winter crops and some spring planted crops. Grass crops have put on little biomass and were beginning to head early. The current hot temperatures were inhibiting crop production and may cause some problems with grain yields this fall.

Whitman (2nd Report): The weather was more like July than May. Temperatures soared to 100 degrees. Winter wheat in the Hay-Hooper area began heading out but also started to turn blue under the stress of the summer-like heat. By week's end the early heat wave gave way to thunderstorms, rain and moderating temperatures. Rainfall totals were not yet known but the Colfax area did see some relief with significant rains, and it is hopeful that parched western areas of the county received some relief as well.

Weekly Weather Statistics

May 22, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	44	77	59	6	66	39	9	9	0.04	-0.45	1	29.57	-1.39	96	141
Everett	46	76	60	6	74	42	12	12	0.03	-0.53	1	28.06	-2.98	90	143
Hoquiam	43	88	60	7	73	45	16	16	0.07	-0.63	1	65.80	3.67	106	163
Kelso	46	91	64	10	102	68	34	34	0.03	-0.53	2	37.49	-3.71	91	136
Olympia	41	84	61	9	82	57	20	20	0.01	-0.43	1	48.38	2.13	105	137
Sea-Tac	48	83	63	9	96	58	28	28	0.09	-0.26	2	33.12	-0.16	100	134
Shelton	38	88	61	6	80	39	22	22	0.08	-0.41	1	65.63	5.37	109	143
Tacoma	43	82	61	6	80	41	16	16	0.05	-0.37	2	36.11	0.40	101	128
Vancouver	51	94	67	13	123	86	53	53	0.10	-0.43	2	38.52	1.60	104	134
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	44	98	72	17	152	113	86	85	0.28	0.14	3	10.26	2.71	136	75
Stampede Pass	46	85	62	22	89	89	34	34	0.25	-0.52	3	63.41	-10.04	86	149
Wenatchee	49	97	72	13	156	90	88	77	0.29	0.20	2	5.66	-1.21	82	52
Yakima AP	44	97	71	15	151	99	83	76	0.24	0.13	3	8.39	1.71	126	64
NORTHEAST															
Colville	46	91	69	15	132	99	63	63	0.35	-0.14	1	15.99	-0.77	95	87
Deer Park	42	91	67	13	119	86	51	51	0.41	0.03	1	23.62	8.43	155	108
Spokane AP	50	92	70	16	141	109	71	71	0.44	0.09	2	15.83	2.49	119	99
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	49	96	72	12	158	84	89	74	0.32	0.18	3	8.57	2.59	143	66
Moses Lake	46	96	71	11	147	73	80	65	0.34	0.20	3	10.15	4.17	170	78
Quincy	50	94	73	14	162	99	92	82	0.39	0.25	3	10.07	3.54	154	78
Ritzville	44	95	71	17	146	111	78	78	0.56	0.35	2	13.33	3.78	140	86
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	49	99	75	12	174	79	104	75	0.08	-0.05	1	4.67	-0.91	84	41
Pasco	47	99	75	14	177	96	107	87	0.37	0.23	2	8.01	1.64	126	66
Pullman	48	92	69	17	136	112	66	66	0.48	0.13	2	10.38	-7.13	59	91
Whitman Miss.	44	98	71	14	150	94	80	73	0.99	0.71	2	15.15	3.63	132	103
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	46	91	69	14	137	96	70	69	0.48	-0.01	1	9.06	-12.00	43	74
Lewiston ID	53	97	75	17	178	118	108	99	0.79	0.51	2	9.38	0.12	101	76

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days =

Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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